What is Claimed is:

1 1.   A notebook computer with an input/output (I/O) physical user interface

2 comprising:

3   a base containing a keyboard for said notebook computer, wherein said

4   base has an extended portion beyond said keyboard creating a widened

5   keyboard base;

6   a widened display, said widened display having a widened I/O display

7   area corresponding to said widened keyboard base, said widened

8   display having a width substantially equal to a width of said widened

9   keyboard base;

10   an I/O device area disposed within said extended portion of said

11   widened keyboard base; and

12   an interface signal connection means mounted within said I/O device

13   area, said interface signal connection means operable to couple signals

14   from said notebook computer to an I/O device.

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1   2.   The notebook computer of claim 1, wherein said I/O device area is recessed

2   below a surface of said I/O device area, said recessed I/O device area operable to

3   receive said I/O device.

1   3.   The notebook computer of claim 2, wherein said interface signal connection

2   means is disposed within said recessed I/O device area.

1   4.   The notebook computer of claim 1, wherein an interface connection interposer

2   is disposed between said interface signal connection means and said I/O device.

1   5.   The notebook computer of claim 4, wherein said interface connection

2   interposer is disposed within said recessed I/O device area.

1   6.   The notebook computer of claim 4, wherein said interface connection

2   interposer is operable to compensate for both mechanical and signal routing

3   differences between said universal connection means, said recessed I/O area and said

4   I/O device.

1   7.   The notebook computer of claim 1, wherein said widened I/O display area is

2   used to display operational data relative to operation of said I/O device when said I/O

3   device is sending or receiving signals to said notebook computer.

1   8.   The notebook computer of claim 1, wherein said notebook computer is

2   operable to execute first communication software instructions, said first

3   communication software instructions controlling communication between said

4   notebook computer and said I/O device.

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1 9. The notebook computer of claim 1, wherein said I/O device is operable to

2 execute second communication software instructions, said second communication

3 software instructions controlling communication between said notebook computer

4 and said I/O device.

1 10. The notebook computer of claim 1, wherein said I/O device has functionality

2 wholly separate from any communication signaling or connection with said notebook

3 computer.

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11.   A method of interfacing a I/O device to a notebook computer, comprising the steps of:

      providing said notebook computer with a widened display and a widened keyboard base, said widened keyboard base having an I/O device area;

      providing a signal connection means within said I/O device area;

      coupling signals from said I/O device to I/O circuitry in said notebook computer, said I/O circuitry operable to couple signals from said I/O device to a central processing unit (CPU) in said notebook computer;

      activating communication software, said communication software operable to control communication between said CPU and said I/O device; and

      activating display software, said display software operable to execute instructions directing the display of input or output data relevant to said I/O device in a widened portion of said widened display.

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1   12.   The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of operating said
2   notebook computer and said I/O device together in response to user commands
3   entered via said notebook computer or via said I/O device.

1   13.   The method of claim 11, wherein said widened display has a width
2   substantially equal to a width of said widened keyboard base.

1   14.   The method of claim 11, wherein said I/O device has functionality wholly
2   separate from any communication signaling or connection with said notebook
3   computer.

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